AFRICA Fund

54. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's contribution to the Africa Fund recently launched at the 9-nation Summit Committee meet in New Delhi in January this year;

(b) which countries are the contributors to this fund, and

(c) what are its precise objects and how the Fund would be administered?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) The Government of India has announced a contribution of Rs. 50 crores to the AFRICA Fund spread over three years.

(b) Other countries to have pledged contributions to the Fund include Nigeria and Peru. Reponses of other countries are awaited.

(c) the objectives of the AFRICA Fund are:

(i) to strengthen the economic and financial capability of the Frontline States to fight the Apartheid regime of Pretoria and to support the liberation movements in South Africa and Namibia in their unrelenting struggle against racist and colonialis oppression;

(ii) to assist the Frontline States to enforce sanctions against South Africa and to cope with any retaliatory economic action by the racist regime.

The Fund is to be administered by a 9-member Fund Committee of which India is the Chairman, and Zambia is the Vice-Chairman. AFRICA Fund Summit has adopted detailed Rules of Procedure for the management and operation of the AFRICA Fund.

Pay scales for ESIC employees

55. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pay scales recommended by the Fourth Central Pay Commission have not yet been made applicable to the employees of the Employees State Insurance Corporation; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and by when these scales are likely to be made applicable to the employees of the ESIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The revised scales of pay and allowances etc. as approved by the Government on the basis of the Fourth Pay Commission's recommendations have since been extended to Group 'B', 'C' and 'D' employees of the ESI Corporation.

(b) Does not arise.

Sardar Sarovar project

56. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI:
SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the progress made in the clearance of Sardar Sarovar-Project on river Narmada in Gujaart;

(b) at what stage the clearance is pending and what are the hurdles in its clearance;

(c) whether the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat have furnished the details and/or replied all the queries raised by his Ministry;

(d) if no, which specific compliance is still to be made; and

(e) by when the final clearance is likely to be given to the project?